



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
(573) 751-3222
<http://go.missouri.gov>

MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

ROOM 216
STATE CAPITOL
65101

September 18, 2006

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

Smithfield Foods, Inc. ("Smithfield") and Premium Standard Farms ("PSF") have announced their intent to merge, with Smithfield acquiring all outstanding shares of PSF. I am attaching a joint press release from the two entities, containing details of the transaction. PSF, the second largest pork producer and sixth largest pork processor, is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. Smithfield is the nation's largest pork processor and producer.

This morning, Smithfield representatives indicated that the merger would be seamless with minimal impact to Missourians. In addition, I am pleased to receive assurances from Smithfield of their strong commitment to protecting the environment. However, I have concerns that the consolidation of these two companies may have a significant impact on competition and could impact Missouri producers in a negative manner. As a result, I am asking your office to conduct a stringent and thorough review to ensure that the terms of this merger are fully compliant with all anti-trust laws and regulations of the United States.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

Matt Blunt